

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 NEAE-00 /065 W

-----101452Z 106384 /50

O 101404Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5215

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM,IS

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN ISRAELI PRISONS

REF: JERUSALEM 0035

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED UNDER THE HEADLINE "ALLON CRITICIZES U.S. CONSUL" THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, ATTRIBUTED TO ITS KNESSET REPORTER, APPEARED IN THE MARCH 10 JERUSALEM POST. BEGIN TEST: FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON CRITICIZED THE U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN JERUSALEM IN THE KNESSET YESTERDAY.

2. ALLON TOLD SHOSHANA ARBELI (ALIGNMENT) AT QUESTION-TIME THAT THE CONSUL GENERAL'S PROMISE TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF 400 HUNGER-STRIKING ARAB SECURITY PRISONERS IN ASHKELON PRISON "DID NOT ACCORD WITH HIS STATUS AND FUNCTIONS."

3. ALLON SAID: "WE DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY

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IS ISRAEL TO THIS MATTER, AND WE HOPE THERE WILL BE NO RECURRENCE."

4. SHOSHANA ARBELI SAID THAT IN JANUARY, THE CONVICTS' FAMILIES CAME TO MICHAEL NEWLIN ASKING FOR U.S. INTERVENTION. THE CONSUL GENERAL LISTENED TO THEIR PLAINTS, PROMISED TO STUDY THE AFFAIR, AND SAID HE WOULD TRANSFER

HIS FINDINGS TO THE EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV, SHE SAID.

5. NEW LIN SAID HE WOULD ACT IN UNISON WITH THE OTHER FOREIGN CONSULS IN JERUSALEM, ACCORDING TO ARBELI, ON BEHALF OF A JUST SOLUTION TO THE PRISONERS' PROBLEMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTION. END TEXT. END UNCLASSIFIED
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6. COMMENT: ALLON'S STATEMENT THAT CONSUL GENERAL NEWLING PROMISED TO INTERVENE DOES NOT ACCORD WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION ON JANUARY 6 (SEE REFTEL). IN FACT, HE CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM ANY UNDERTAKING THAT HE WOULD INTERVENE BUT PROMISED SIMPLY TO STUDY THE MATTER, INFORM THE DEPARTMENT, AND TO CONSULT WITH THE EMBASSY AND THE ICRC.

7. THE STATEMENT BY ALLON THAT THE MINISTRY DREW THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THE MATTER PROBABLY REFERS TO A TELEPHONE CALL BY THE DIRECTOR OF NORTHAMERICAN AFFAIRS TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR A FEW DAYS AFTER THE MEETING AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MINISTRY WAS DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR OF THE MEETING, THAT THE CONSUL GENERAL HAD EXCEEDED HIS AUTHORITY, AND THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD SEE THAT THE INCIDENT WAS NOT REPEATED. WE REPLIED SIMPLY THAT NOTE WAS TAKEN OF THE MINISTRY'S VIEWS.

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